

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a scandalous violation of the license process of the FCC and the law in regard to media ownership. This mandate has the fingerprints of Rupert Murdoch all over it. He has been the most blatant violator of the spirit of media ownership in the United States for years.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when international media conglomerates control the airwaves, they use their stations as ways of promoting their own self interest rather than the public interest of a fair election. We need to have stations that reflect the interest of our local communities here in Ohio rather than the interests of media monopolies.

Sinclair's actions are a clear example of why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. I would request that you reject Sinclair's application for renewal of their license in all of their stations in Ohio. This is a violation of the law that requires significant punishment. We need to make it clear to all who receive these licenses that we require that they act in the public interest, not in their own narrowly defined partisan interest.

Thank you.